



# MEMORANDUM

TO: Engineers, Surveyors, Geologists, Coal Companies, and Mineral Owners

FROM: Benny R. Wampler

DATE: March 20, 2003

SUBJECT: Underground Mine Maps

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) has been compiling mine maps in digital format since 1992 and, with the coal industry's assistance, has located and identified thousands of mines. This information will be used to help ensure the safety of underground miners and the public. Even with the amount of work completed to date, there are still many mine maps that have not been scanned and placed in our database. We are seeking your assistance to help DMME continue the search for pre-1980 mine maps.

You can assist in this effort in one of two ways. If you have pre-1980 mine maps, DMME staff will come to your location to review and scan the maps with your permission. Or you may complete the attached form that will help identify mine sites and their characteristics. DMME will then use this information to determine if a mine map is included in our database.

If you choose to use the attached form, please include as much information as possible and forward it to the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, P.O. Drawer 900, Big Stone Gap, Va. 24219, attention: Mine Mapping Project.

We will compare the information you have provided with the mines in our database and contact you if we do not have the mine listed. With your permission, we will scan any map not included in our database.

We have contacted federal agencies and other mine map repositories to obtain copies of Virginia mine maps in order to develop as complete a data set as possible. We have accessed several thousand mine maps in digital format through this effort.

DMME's records of coal mine maps are available for your review. You may contact Lola Varner (276) 523-8233 or Cindy Ashley (276) 523-8235 at our Customer Assistance Center for more information about getting access to these maps and records.

Please contact Doug Mullins at (276) 523-8255 if you have questions or wish to have our staff come to your location to review your map files. Or if you prefer to complete and submit this form electronically, we will send you an electronic version of the form.

Thank you for your assistance on this important mine safety project.

Attachment